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ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1955



J.G.S.TURNER, C.M.G., M.B.,
Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.T.M.



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ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1955

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Chairman

MR. W. G. SCOWN

Chairman of the Council

MR. T. B. EDDY

Vice Chairman of the Council

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MR. C. A. THOMAS

MR. J. C. WAKEFORD

To The Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of St. Austell

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1955.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Watts and his staff to Mr. King and Mr. Mules to all of whom I am indebted for parts of this report.

I wish to thank also the Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and support.

I have the honour to be , Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J.G.S.TURNER

Medical Officer of Health

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	18,379
Population	...	...	...	...	23,490
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	7,933
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£232,529 140,467
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£543

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Population</u>				
	Male	Female	Total	St. Austell	England and Wales
Legitimate	140	137			
Illegitimate	3	5	285	12.14	

For comparison with other areas rate corrected for age and sex distribution. 13.35 15.0

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Total Births and Stillbirths</u>				
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	St. Austell	England and Wales
Legitimate	7	3			
Illegitimate	1	-	11	37.2	23.1

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Population</u>				
	162	187	349	14.8	
For comparison with other areas rate corrected for age and sex distribution.				11.5	11.7

<u>MATERNAL DEATHS</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total Births</u>				
	0	0	0	0	0.64

<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u> (Deaths under 1 year of age)	<u>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u>				
	7	2	9	31.6	24.9
Legitimate	7	2	9	31.6	24.9
Illegitimate	0	0			

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following is an abbreviated list of
the causes of death of persons of all ages:-

		Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis - respiratory	0	3	3
2.	Tuberculosis - other	1	0	1
3.	Syphilitic Disease	1	0	1
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and Parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	6	10
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	6	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	13	26
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	0	1
16.	Diabetes	0	3	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	37	52
18.	Coronary disease, angina	28	11	39
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	6	5	11
20.	Other heart disease	29	50	79
21.	Other circulatory disease	9	3	12
22.	Influenza	2	1	3
23.	Pneumonia	9	6	15
24.	Bronchitis	4	6	10
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	2	5
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	0	3
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	7	7
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	6	0	6
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	4	0	4
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	22	36
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0
34.	All other accidents	5	2	7
35.	Suicide	1	1	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
	All causes	162	187	349

The following short table gives the percentage distribution of deaths in various age groups:- The advantage of being a female is very obvious.

<u>Age Group at death</u>	<u>Percentage dying in each age group</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
0 - 1 yr	4.3	1.1
1 - 59 yrs	21.6	13.5
60 - 69	17.3	13.0
70 - 79	33.3	38.4
80 - 89	22.2	28.6
90 and over	1.2	5.4

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER
ONE YEAR OF AGE

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Ages in weeks</u>
	<u>-1 -2 -3 -4 -5 -52 Total</u>
1. Prematurity	5 - - - - - 5
2. Malformation	2 - - - - - 2
3. Hydrocephalus	1 - - - - - 1
4. Gangrene of gut	- - - - - 1 1
	<hr/>
	8 - - - - 1 9

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

AREA - (In acres) 18,379. The district is mixed Urban and Rural, the main aggregations of population being in St.Austell town, Par, St.Blazey and Mevagissey. Par and Charlestown are ports dealing with the china clay trade, while Mevagissey deals with the fishing trade. The whole area is popular as a sea-side resort and the population is greatly increased during the summer months.

POPULATION - 23,490

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES - According to the Rate Book, the number of inhabited houses in the district was 7933 the rateable value being £252,529 140/- which gives £543 for a penny rate.

CLIMATE - The year was generally fine with a long dry summer which towards the end of September gave rise to water supply difficulties. The earlier part of the year was cooler than usual and a prolonged frost in February did much damage. The following tables supplied by the Engineer give the rainfall as recorded in St.Austell.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>MONTHLY AVERAGE FOR LAST 20 YEARS</u>
January	6.96	5.56
February	5.11	4.26
March	1.44	3.68
April	1.58	2.92
May	4.40	3.71
June	3.82	2.58
July	0.18	3.0
August	0.22	3.85
September	2.03	3.96
October	4.21	4.12
November	3.83	6.00
December	6.95	5.94
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>40.73</u>	<u>50.58</u>
Monthly Average	3.39	4.22
No of wet days	241	177

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

1. Medical Officer of Health

J.G.S.Turner, M.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

2. Senior Sanitary Inspector

C.H.Watts, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. Cert. Meat and Food Inspector

3. Additional Sanitary Inspectors

L.H.Sturridge, M.R.San. I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., Certified Meat & Food Inspector.

4. J.T.Rostern, C.R.S.I.

LABORATORY FACILITIES - These are available at The Royal Cornwall Infirmary where all material for investigation is sent.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS- In addition to the usual diphtheria prophylactic a supply of whooping cough vaccine, both alone and in combination with that for diphtheria is available. Supplies are available to Medical Practitioners at The Area Health Office, St.Austell, on request.

AMBULANCE SERVICE- There is a main centre in St.Austell, with an establishment of three ambulances and three utilicons. In addition St.Johns and the Red Cross Societies maintain ambulances at St.Blazey and St.Austell and these are available in emergencies. The work of the service for the whole of No:IV area in 1955 is summarised as follows:-

	<u>Patients Carried</u>	<u>Miles Run</u>
County Ambulances	3,914	61,246
Voluntary Ambulances	597	18,802
Utilicons (sitting cases)	11,414	84,930
Hospital Car Service	7,445	81,012

Thanks are due to the Commandant, Officers and Members of the British Red Cross Society and to the Superintendent, Officers and Members of the St. Blazey Division of the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade for continued co-operation and assistance in manning both County and Voluntary vehicles at night and at week-ends. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Batchelor, Organiser of the Hospital Car Service and to the many ladies and gentlemen who provide transport on request.

NURSING AND OTHER SERVICES IN THE HOME

These have worked well in spite of shortage of staff. The establishment was as follows:-

	District Nurse Midwife Health Visitor	Health Visitor (Full-time)	General Nurse & Midwife	TOTAL
Mevagissey	1	-	-	1
St. Blazey & Tywardreath	3	-	-	3
St. Austell & Trevarbyn	2	3	3	8

All nurses as circumstances permit are sent for further training or for practical post-certificate courses.

Domiciliary Midwifery

Approximately 60% of all births occur at home and provided the home conditions are good and that difficulties are unlikely to arise, this is the best place.

Care and After-Care

Children discharged from hospital are followed up until fit. One case of tuberculosis was given help by funds provided by the County Council.

Ante and Post- Natal Care

An ante-natal clinic was held weekly at Moorland Road by a Specialist Obstetrician. In addition a weekly clinic was held by mid-wives. Relaxation classes have been established at Par and in St. Austell. A mother's club has been established in St. Austell and has very successful meetings.

Infant Welfare

Clinics are held fortnightly at St. Austell and at Par. The attendances averaged 17.1 and 27.0 respectively. Instruction in health education is given at St. Austell Clinic with reasonably good results

Domestic Help Service

A total of 272 persons were helped of whom 16 were Maternity cases. There is a growing demand for this service. Much can be done by this service to help old people and near problem families and so keep them out of Institutions.

Care of Old People

A Committee consisting of members of the various voluntary societies and of the clergy has been set up to advise and help old people. The Urban area has been divided into districts each under an organiser who recruits her own visitors. The visitors function is to seek out and visit wherever welcomed the lonely and needy old folks. The growth of this work is slower than anticipated but as the work of the Committee gets known it is felt that a great need will have been met.

Hospitals

The only hospital in the area is the St. Austell and District Hospital which deals with general medical and surgical cases. Cases requiring further examination and special treatment are sent to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. Maternity cases go to Redruth and infectious diseases requiring isolation or special treatment are sent to the Isolation Hospital at Truro. A few of the more infective cases of tuberculosis are sent to Tehidy but accommodation is very limited.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

(a) Clinics held at Moorland Road are as follows:-

Ante-Natal & Gynaecology	Every Monday
Orthopaedic	Every Tuesday
Child Welfare	First, third and fifth Wednesday each month.
Speech Therapy	Every Wednesday
E.N.T.	As required
Dental	Daily
Child Guidance	Second and Fourth Wednesday each month
Psychiatric	Tuesday afternoons
Skin Clinic	Thursday mornings
Family Planning	Second Monday afternoon & Fourth Friday evening

(b) Clinics held at the Hospital:-

General Medical and Surgical	Daily
Orthopaedic	Monday-fore-noon
Venereal Diseases	Tuesday-afternoon
Tuberculosis	Monday-afternoon.

SECTION C

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

WATER

Consumer demands for water were adequately met in all parts of the district.

Bacteriological examinations have been made regularly on both the raw and treated water from all sources. Traces of contamination have been found at one or two sources but not on the distributing system, indicating that methods of chlorination are satisfactory.

The water supply in the district is soft and the high silica content provides a natural check on plumbo-solvency. Lead pipes are not used on drinking supplies, galvanised iron or copper tubing being the standard materials used throughout the district.

Approximately 97% of the houses in the district have a piped supply and most have water indoors. During the year new mains were laid on housing sites at School Hill, Mevagissey; Church Street, St. Blazey and Eastbourne, St. Austell, and mains were renewed at Carthew and Albert Road and Belmont Road, St. Austell.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There have been extensive changes to the sewerage system at Par and St. Blazey where the first stage of the new scheme including a new sewage works and two pumping stations are in operation and the second stage of the scheme is in progress. The reconstruction of the sewage works at Molinnis is also in progress.

DISINFECTION

Disinfection has been carried out as required a total of 27 rooms being disinfected during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

This service was well maintained by the two workers who are provided with transport. The work done was as follows:-

(a) Private Dwellings

393 Weekly treatments were carried out free of charge to the householder. 50% of the cost is recovered from the Ministry.

(b) Business Premises

234 Weekly treatments were carried out and the cost charged to the firms concerned. Most occupiers of these premises have agreements with the Local Authority for regular treatments.

(c) Sewers

The twice yearly treatments were carried out in April and September and the sewers were found to be in a very satisfactory condition. These treatments were administered under the "Block Control" system as advised by the Ministry's Pest Officer in the interests of economy.

(d) Refuse Disposal Works

These were regularly surveyed and treatment carried out as required.

(e) Par Beach

Rats were found to be living under the beach huts and intensive treatment was carried out during the Autumn. The only way to prevent this in future is to give the rats no shelter by building up the huts to be well clear of the ground or alternatively to get rid of the beach huts altogether. The latter is preferable.

(f) Farm Premises

Survey work of farm lands has been carried out during the year. It was found that quite a number of farmers have baiting agreements with the County Agricultural Committee to rid their land of rats. 17 weekly treatments were carried out under arrangements with the occupiers.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This activity is under supervision of the Surveyor. A weekly refuse collection is in operation throughout the Urban District but in certain very congested areas in Mevagissey, where there is no storage accommodation collections are made thrice weekly. Refuse is disposed of at tips at Menagwins, Par and Mevagissey.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Urban area is moderately well served with conveniences which are supervised by the Surveyors staff. A twice daily cleansing service is maintained in the town area and at Par and Mevagissey during the Summer months.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Details of applicants are as follows:-

Number without separate houses (including numerous cases of overcrowding)	830
Number of families with separate homes	
(a) Living in unfit houses	80
(b) Living in overcrowded houses	215
	<u>1,125</u>

Applications from young people without separate homes heavily outweigh all other applications and overcrowding through the occupation of reasonably fit houses by two or more families is still a major problem.

Types required are as follows:-

1 bedroom type	20
2 bedroom type	850
3 bedroom type	255

It is again emphasized that the housing shortage in the area is even greater than reflected in the Council's waiting list as owing to the rise in the cost of new houses and the consequential high rentals, many people prefer to remain in unsatisfactory cottages, where, however, the rent is controlled and indeed in many instances abnormally low.

The Council owns 1,586 houses and development is still proceeding on three major sites including one site which will be extended by the inclusion of adjacent land and is ideally suitable for building purposes.

Details of house construction in the area during 1955 are as follows:-

Dwellings erected by the Council 118

Dwellings erected by Private Enterprise 41

76 houses are in the course of construction by the Council and 40 by private enterprise.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Early in the year the Council considered the Government's proposals for the resumption of slum clearance activities as laid down under Section 1, Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954.

Thus the estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936., was agreed to be 400 approximately practically all of these were scheduled for consideration before the late war.

A visiting Slum Clearance Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee was appointed to visit each house and to report upon the action to be taken by the Council on each property inspected by them.

I would stress the need to find some way to house the socially unsatisfactory families. Children who grow up in institutions and camps where these families tend to gravitate have little hope of growing up to be useful citizens.

Almost any type of dwelling provided that it gives a home and a stable background would give the children a chance to grow up in and belong to the community of decent citizens

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

Samples of milk were taken during the year and were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, R.C.I., Truro for examination. Results received show that cleanliness and purity were maintained at a high standard.

Specified Areas

It is pleasing to report that early in December of the year Under review the St. Austell Urban area became a "Specified Area" under the Government's scheme for the control and distribution of milk to the consumers who can now only obtain either heat treated milk or tuberculin tested raw milk for human consumption.

MEAT

All meat for the area was slaughtered at the private slaughterhouses licenced for such purposes by the Local Authority.

Meat inspection of all carcases and offals was carried out daily after slaughter.

It is worthy of note that since the return to private slaughtering in July, 1954, the butchers deal in the better grades of animals they purchased for slaughter for human consumption.

SECTION E
(Continued)

The following table summarises the results of meat inspection:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1380	245	62	2503	2470
Number Inspected	1380	245	62	2503	2470
All diseases except T.B. Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	3	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		298	-	10	7
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.		17. 6%	-	.4%	34%
Tuberculosis Only. Whole Carcase condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned		90	-	-	-
Percentage or number inspected affected with T.B.		5. 3%	-	-	1.1%

There were no cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* in the animals inspected during the year.

OTHER FOODS

The various types of food traders premises including wholesalers, manufacturers and food catering establishments have been regularly visited by the staff throughout the year. Attention has been paid particularly to the restaurant kitchens where food preparation has to be carried on in ill sited rooms.

ICE-CREAM

Manufacturers and retailers premises were supervised by the Sanitary Inspectors. The result shown below indicates considerable improvement over previous years:-

Grade	Hot Mix	Cold Mix	Total
1	30	0	30
2	11	1	12
3	3	0	3
4	2	0	2

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received:-

Disease	Number of Cases	Rate per 1,000 population			
		St. Austell Urban Dist.		England and Wales	
		1954	1955	1955	1955
Whooping Cough	9	0.51	0.38	1.78	
Measles	115	0.17	4.90	15.6	
Acute Pneumonia	7	0.17	0.29	0.63	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	----	0.04	----	
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	3	0.04	0.13	0.083	
Non Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	----	0.04	0.059	
Acute encephalitis	1	----	0.04	----	
Food Poisoning	7	----	0.29	0.28	

The outbreak of measles occurred in the early part of the year and was limited mainly to the eastern part of the area.

The outbreak of food poisoning was due to poisons which developed in cooked ham which had been handled by some infected person and was insufficiently cooled.

No connection could be traced between the cases of poliomyelitis which occurred in the later part of the year. It is thought that the first case (non paralytic) was related to one in the Wadebridge area where a cousin was similarly affected. The third case might have had some connection with a small group which occurred in the rural area. The infant twin of the second case was not affected.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following table gives the state of immunisation of the child population:-

Number of children at 31st December, 1955 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date, (i.e. at any time since the 1st January, 1941)

Age at 31.12.55 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1955	1-4 1953-50	5-9 1949-45	10-14 1944-40	Total under 15 years
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
(a) 1951-1955	4	617	1,216	1,035	2,872
(b) 1951 or earlier	-	-	401	355	756
(c) Estimated mid- year child population	310	1,280	1,780	1,550	4,920
Immunity Index A/C x 100	1.3	48.2	68.4	65.4	58.4.

During the year the following immunisations were carried out.

Primary

Diphtheria only	45
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	183
Whooping Cough only	2

Booster

Diphtheria only	132
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	9
Whooping Cough only	1

These figures show that the immune state of the child population is well below the figure of 75% regarded as safe by the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health. The low figure for the under ones is particularly disappointing as it means that protection against whooping cough is very low when the danger is greatest.

VACCINATION

A total of 83 primary vaccinations and 24 re-vaccinations were carried out during the year.

It is not generally appreciated that apart from the protection which becomes more necessary as the immunity of the population falls, there is the advantage of a less serious reaction to vaccination in infancy and a much lesser risk of the complication of encephalitis following vaccination.

TUBERCULOSIS

The total number of cases on the register at the 31st December, 1955 were as follows:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Male	69	10
Females	61	18
Total	130	28

The table given below shows the age and sex distribution of new cases and deaths notified during 1955:-

Age Group	New Cases						Death					
	Respiratory		Meninges		Other		Respiratory		Meninges		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-44	4	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	1
45-64	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 64	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12	8	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	0

In addition to the above, movements in and out of the area were as follows:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Transfers in	4	3	0	1
Transfers out	6	5	-	-
Recoveries	8	3	1	0

There has been little change in the numbers of new cases notified and the number on the register tends if anything to increase slightly. This state of affairs is due to the larger numbers who survive and who possibly remain infective to others, and also to the much more efficient methods of case finding.

The preventive measures taken to limit the spread of infection include the examination of all close contacts of cases; the mass radiography service, and the special testing of school children in their 14th year.

Thirty seven close contacts of cases who proved to be Mantoux negative were given B.G.C. vaccination.

The mass radiography unit visited the St. Blazey district during November and examined school children and groups of adults. I am unable to give separate figures for the latter as the results of the examination included a number from the rural district. A heavy incidence of sickness was found in workers handling china stone, both in the quarries and elsewhere. No evidence was found of any dust disease amongst ordinary china clay workers.

Two hundred and ninety-eight children were skin tested and those showing no evidence of previous exposure to tuberculosis infection (85.5%) were offered B.C.G. vaccination. 251 accepted and were vaccinated. In addition 237 children were X-rayed and 3 inactive lesions were found.

Apart from the measures outlined above education in the management of their disease is given to cases, and to their close contacts, and where necessary, families are rehoused to allow segregation of infective cases.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

**1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)**

Premises	No. in Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	20	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 3 is enforced by the Local Authority	186	156	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker's premises.)	70	67	-	-
TOTAL	274	243	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found.</u>			Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	<u>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>
	Found	Remedied				
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2		-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-		-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-		-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-		-	-	-
Inadequate drainage of floors	-	-		-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient	-	-		-	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND (Continued)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.	by H.M. Inspector	
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	11	11	-	-	-
TOTAL	16	16	-	-	-

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE
YEAR 1955

To the Chairman & Members of the St. Austell Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Joyce & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eighteenth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

The number of visits paid to various types of premises by the Inspectorial Staff in the performance of their duties continues to increase, thus a total of 4949 visits were made, an increase of 139 on the previous year.

The principal items of the Report are set out in order as follows:-

1. HOUSING

Details of procedure in connection with housing repair works under both Housing and Public Health Acts are appended in Table No.4 at the end of this Report.

Housing repair works were carried out in the main after verbal notice or informal notice had been served, it being necessary to serve only two statutory notices during the year, both of which were complied with.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Early in the year the Council considered the Government's proposals for the resumption of slum clearance activities as laid down under Section 1, Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954 and in order to be able to submit the Authorities proposals in the required form to the Minister of Housing and Local Government by the 31st August, 1955.

Thus the estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954 and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 was agreed to be 400 approximately practically all of which were scheduled for consideration before the late was period for action under the Housing Act, 1936.

SLUM CLEARANCE (Cont'd)

A visiting Slum Clearance Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee was appointed to visit each house and to report upon suggested action that should be taken by the Council in regard to each property inspected by them.

2. MEAT INSPECTION

1185 Visits were paid to slaughterhouses during the year.

<u>Inspected</u>	
<u>BOVINE</u>	1,687
(a) Bullocks	886
(b) Cows	245
(c) Bulls	6
(d) Calves	62
(e) Heifers	488
<u>SHEEP</u>	2,503
<u>PIGS</u>	2,470
<u>GOATS</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>6,661</u>

The total of animal carcases slaughtered shows a slight decrease on the previous year.

The following tables show the comparison between 1953, 1954, 1955.

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
<u>BOVINE</u>	1687	2417	3273
(a) Bullocks	886	1578	1815
(b) Cows	245	396	541
(c) Bulls	6	20	31
(d) Calves	62		
(e) Heifers	488	423	886
<u>SHEEP</u>	2503	5462	5189
<u>PIGS</u>	2470	2705	1707
<u>GOATS</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>6,661</u>	<u>10,583</u>	<u>10,169</u>

Reasons for Condemnations

	B O V I N E							P H O E				I N V E R					
	Carcasses	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Pt. Livers	Livers	Stomachs	Carcasses	Heads	Plucks	Stomachs	Livers	Carcasses	Heads	Plucks	Livers	Stomachs
STRONGYLES												3			1	7	
SEPTICAEMIA																	
TUBERCULOSIS	1	19	51				1		22								
CIRRHOSIS					70	41											
CAVERNOUS ANGIOMA							8										
DISTOMATOSIS					137	20										8	
ABSCESSES			3		16	6											
PERICARDITIS																	
FEVER, DROPSY & EMACIATION													3				
ACTINOMYCOSIS		4															
FATTY INFILTRATION																	
NECROSIS																	
MASTITIS																	
PNEUMONIA										4							
PLEURISY															1		
COENURUS CEREBRALIS																	
HYDARID CYSTS																	
INFLAMMATION																	

BOVINE

174 lbs Hindquarter Beef Injury and bruising

3. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933

There were 40 licenced slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

4. OTHER FOODS

The various types of food traders premises including wholesalers, manufacturers and food catering establishments have been regularly visited by the inspectorate staff throughout the year. Attention has been paid particularly to the several restaurant kitchens where food preparation has to be carried on in ill sited rooms.

Numerous visits were paid to food storage premises and food shops etc., during 1955 and large consignments of foodstuffs were inspected.

As a result of these inspections the following items were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and disposed of:-

853	tins of Meat	Blown and decomposition.
1107	tins of Fruit	Blown and leaking.
339	tins of Vegetables	Blown.
88	tins of Fish	Decomposition.
148	tins of Milk	Blown and Leaking.
18	tins of Soup	Blown and Leaking.
9	tins of Jam	Punctured and leaking.
61 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs of Cheese	Moulds and Mites.
$\frac{1}{2}$	lb of Biscuits	Damp and moulds.
1	lb of Flour	Damp and fouled by rodents.
24	lbs of Sausages	Decomposition.
24	lbs of Bacon	Decomposition.
100	Bundles - Bananas	Decomposition.
4 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs Beef Suet	Sour.
4	pkts Quaker Oats	Damp and Mouldy.
1	lb Margarine	Damaged.
2	tins treacle	Damaged and leaking.
3	lbs Spaghetti	Damp affected.
150	lbs Prunes	Fermentation and Moulds
15	lbs Cake	Mouldy

3	lbs Coffee Flavour	Damp.
12	lbs Sponge Mixture	Mouldy.
9	tins Cream	Blown and leaking.
5½	lbs Ground Almonds	Decomposition & mouldy.
54	lbs Apricots	Advanced fermentation.

Food Catering & Storage Premises

A total of 714 visits were made to the various Food Storage and Preparing premises within the area.

Condemned as being in an unmarketable condition due to water penetration

26 lbs of Chocolates

Fish Inspection

During the year 46 half casks and 2057 quarter casks of pickled Pilchards were exported from Mevagissey together with 1600 lbs of Crayfish and Lobsters.

In addition numerous visits were paid to fishmongers premises inspecting consignments of fish exposed for sale for human consumption and as a result the following were surrendered and condemned:-

14	lbs Bloater	}	Decomposition
17	lbs Ling Filletts		

5. MILK

During the year numerous visits were made to the eleven milk "Distributors" dairies situated within the Urban area.

There is still no plant set up in the Urban area by which Pasteurised or Sterilised milk can be produced. Thus pasteurised milk was still distributed over the greater part of the area in bottles by both the St. Austell and St. Blazey Co-operative Societies; the milk being pasteurised and bottled at the Penryn Milk Factory of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and despatched daily to St. Austell.

Increasing supplies of heat treated milk continued to be received by other milk Distributors for retail

sale from the Dried Milk Products Factory, Lostwithiel, and bottled pasteurised from Dawes Creameries, Saltash.

Pasteurised milk continued to be supplied to the several Council Schools by retailers who held "Dealers Licences" to use the special designation "Pasteurised" granted by the Local Authority.

(a) Icecream (Heat Treatment) Regulations

A total of 47 samples of icecream were collected during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, for bacteriological examination by the Methylene Blue Tests. The results of these examinations were reported as follows:-

Provisional Grade 1 - 30 samples			
"	"	2	- 12 "
"	"	3	- 3 "
"	"	4	- 2 "

Although the following table of percentages reveal a slight fall in the bacterial grades obtained in the previous year it is to be assured that a high standard of bacterial cleanliness was maintained generally in the trade, the reason for the drop being the prolonged period of hot weather and the difficulty in keeping the samples cold.

	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
1950	38%	30.0%	15.5%	16.5%
1951	69.5%	17.4%	13.1%	0.0%
1952	71.1%	20%	8.9%	0.0%
1953	92.5%	5.6%	1.9%	0.0%
1954	88.1%	6.8%	5.1%	0.0%
1955	63.8%	25.5%	6.3%	4.2%

During the year five applicants premises were registered upon which to retail pre-packed icecream after such premises were made to conform to the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act. Thus at the end of the year there was a total of 134 registered premises within the Urban district, 5 of which were manufacturing premises.

A total number of 110 visits were paid to the manufacturers and retailers premises. The manufacturers premises continued to be satisfactorily maintained and it is still to be recorded that all the retailers deal only in the prepacked

article, the Cafes, Restaurants and Hawkers Motor Icecream kiosks only serving from bulk supplies.

6. FACTORIES ACT

A total of 243 visits were made to Factory premises during the year when sanitary inspections were made under Parts I and VIII of the Act dealing with Health (General Provisions) and Homework. Communication was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories in accordance with Section VIII (3) of the Act, informing the Local Authority of new factories and changes of occupation of other factory premises within the area.

7. CAMPING SITES

The number of licensed camping sites situated in the Urban area is five, viz:-

Nansladron Farm, Pentewan.
Cheesewarne Farm, Mevagissey.
"The Winnick", Pentewan Beach.
Duporth Holiday Camp, Charlestown.
Par Beach Site (Owned and controlled by the Local Authority)

These five sites are provided with modern sanitary conveniences, water carriage drainage systems and main chlorinated water supplies.

Each of these camping sites was again fully patronised during the Summer season and the usual overflow experienced of campers who could not gain admission to the site at Pentewan and thus invaded the adjoining fields during August.

One or two undesirable tent encampments appeared again on unfenced land in the East Central area. The occupants being of the "romany" type living under unsatisfactory conditions without water supply or sanitation.

Licences were issued for owners to station caravans on private sites in many of these cases the caravans were only required pending the construction of houses or bungalows on the same site.

8. RIVERS AND STREAMS

The rivers and streams in the Urban District continue to be liable to pollution by the entrance into same of house drainages and night soil, and the wilful depositing of house refuse at various points into the White River.

The sewage leats at St. Blazey are regularly cleaned out by the Council.

Rodent control measures continued to be taken against rat infestation along the banks of the sewage leats and St. Austell White Rivers.

9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER VERMIN

There was no case of bed bug infestation during the year.

Reports were received of other types of vermin infestation of premises. Investigations were carried out in each case and those cases confirmed were treated with liquid insecticide solution containing an approved percentage of D.D.T. base and the pests eradicated. Consequently a total of 105 visits were paid to such premises being an increase of 8 on the previous year and a total of 27 rooms were treated.

10. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

Much work was done throughout the year in the destruction of rats and mice under the provisions of the above Act. Thus the rodent operators paid:-

1,511	visits to business premises
2,673	visits to private premises
339	visits to Local Authorities premises
212	visits to farm premises
<hr/>	
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>4,735</u>

In addition the 16th and 17th Sewer treatments were carried out in the months of March and August respectively. According to the results obtained it would appear that the sewers were not badly infested. A total of 212 farm land premises were surveyed during the year and a number of complaints investigated at various premises.

The Council's refuse tips and sewage works sited in various parts of the Urban area received regular baiting treatments during the year.

11. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A number of visits were made in connection with the prevention of infectious disease. Each notified case was investigated and the necessary disinfection of premises, bedding etc., carried out.

12. PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

During the year a total of 12 samples were collected and submitted to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, for bacteriological examination.

These samples were taken from either spring sources, or private well supplies at the following premises:-

Bacteriological Examination

Shelton's Farm, Stenalees, Spring Source	1 sample
88, Bodmin Road, St. Austell. Spring Source	1 sample
Lansalson Cottage, Riddlemoor. Spring Source	1 sample
Leas Cottage, London Apprentice. Well	1 sample
Public Pump, London Apprentice.	2 samples
Carne Moor, Trethurgy. Spring Source	1 sample
Public Tap, Trethurgy	1 sample
"Craigmore", London Apprentice.	1 sample
"Highfield", London Apprentice.	1 sample
Buckby's (Post Office) London Apprentice	1 sample
Hamermill Cottages, Par	1 sample.

Samples have been collected weekly throughout the year from the Council's main supplies by the Water Superintendent and submitted to Dr. Hocking, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro for bacteriological examination.

13. SCHOOLS

The County Education Authority's schools within the Urban area have been found to be well maintained. Upon inspection due regard has been had to the more obsolete type of sanitary accommodation still prevailing at a few of the more isolated country schools.

14. STAFF

The staff of Inspectors during the year consisted of myself, Mr. L.H. Sturridge, Mr. J.T. Rostern and the Pupil Assistant Sanitary Inspector, M. Jacob, who has rendered valuable assistance, his work being much appreciated. Mr. W.G. Carveth was employed on 1st September as a Pupil Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

15. CONCLUSION

I would now avail myself of the opportunity of expressing my thanks to the members of the Council for their help and support at all times, to Dr. Turner, Mr. Saunders, Mr. King and Mr. Sturridge and all members of the Staff for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

C.H. WATTS
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Municipal Offices,
Truro Road,
ST. AUSTELL.

TABLE NO.1
SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

		<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Housing visits	...	146	251	499
Re-inspections	...	607	571	740
Drainage visits	...	665	599	399
Slaughterhouse visits	...	415	899	958
Food Shops	...	716	636	582
Food Preparing Premises	...	166	195	78
Shops Act	...	88	38	35
Dairies & Milk Distributors	...	66	83	68
Factories and Workshops	...	207	258	154
Water Supplies	...	80	100	68
Infectious Disease	...	44	38	18
Verminous Premises	...	139	142	30
Rats and Mice Destruction	...	143	87	118
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	111	118	154
Refuse Disposal	...	66	71	46
Stables and Piggeries	...	19	31	31
Petroleum and Carbide	...	76	64	43
Atmospheric Pollution	...	11	37	19
Theatres & Places of Entertainment	...	27	48	31
Ice Cream Premises	...	65	101	110
School Inspections	...	5	-	1
Special visits re-complaints	...	345	330	124
Poultry House inspections	...	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>4,208</u>	<u>4,655</u>	<u>4,306</u>

TABLE NO.2
VERBAL STATUTORY AND INFORMAL NOTICES

The following table shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions dangerous and injurious to health:-

<u>Notices</u>	<u>No. Served</u>	<u>Complied with</u>	<u>Work done by the Council in default</u>
Verbal	73	32	NIL
Informal	29	13	NIL
Statutory	2	2	NIL

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93 NIL

TABLE NO. 3

DRAINAGE, SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND MISCELLANEOUS

		<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
1.	No. of houses & premises re-drained ..	26	26	21
2.	Repairs or amendments to existing drains	29	35	21
3.	Drains or gullies unstopped & cleaned	70	58	25
4.	Length in yards stoneware drains laid	339	397	1272
5.	Manholes provided	50	53	46
6.	New manhole covers	50	40	31
7.	Intercepting traps fixed	16	7	9
8.	New gully traps fixed	48	67	47
9.	Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed	20	24	18
10.	Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired	2	5	0
11.	Water tests applied	37	30	16
12.	Smoke tests applied	10	25	13
13.	Length in yards iron drains laid	41	37	14
14.	New W.C. accommodation provided	28	44	17
15.	New W.C. apartments provided	21	14	14
16.	New W.C. Pedestals provided	32	47	21
17.	W.C's cleansed and repaired	18	13	10
18.	New flushing cisterns provided	29	47	15
19.	Flushing cisterns repaired	6	2	5
20.	Baths provided	22	19	13
21.	Lavatory basins provided	16	32	14
22.	Sinks provided	33	36	20
23.	New Waste pipes provided	64	73	46
24.	Existing waste pipes trapped	0	3	0
25.	Pail closets and /or middens abolished	9	6	5
26.	Urinals provided	1	5	0
27.	Septic tanks provided	4	10	10
28.	Cesspools emptied	16	32	48

MISCELLANEOUS

1.	New roofs provided	10	4	5
2.	Chimney Stacks repaired	16	32	35
3.	Roofs repaired	37	45	41
4.	Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	60	47	51
5.	Rainwater pipes disconnected or repaired	15	34	41
6.	Damp walls remedied	101	92	93

TABLE NO. 3 (Continued)

Miscellaneous

		<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
7.	Ventilation under floors provided	2	1	2
8.	Yards paved	16	14	13
9.	Yards repaired	12	6	10
10.	Floors of rooms repaired	56	44	32
11.	Floors of rooms relaid	21	20	13
12.	Rooms cleansed and redecorated	143	101	79
13.	New windows provided	32	44	29
14.	Windows repaired	49	44	40
15.	Plaster of walls or ceiling repaired	137	142	113
16.	Doors repaired or renewed	39	40	32
17.	Ventilated food stores provided	19	12	6
18.	Staircases provided or repaired	14	13	10
19.	Water Service pipes repaired	25	23	16
20.	Dustbins provided	19	19	11
21.	Nuisances - animals	3	7	25
22.	Nuisances - refuse	22	6	24
23.	Bakehouse cleansed	2	6	0
24.	Cowsheds and dairies cleansed	1	2	0
25.	Fish Fryers premises cleansed	5	3	0
26.	Insufficient water supply remedied	14	18	7
27.	Grates, ranges, copper renewed or repaired	40	28	31
28.	Rooms disinfected	23	21	26
29.	Rooms disinfested	29	42	45

TABLE NO. 4

H O U S I N G

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	251	588
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	571	759

195419552. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9,10, & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	NIL	1
(ii) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice		
(a) By Owners	NIL	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	NIL	NIL
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	3	NIL
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	NIL	1
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936		
(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	NIL	2

3. Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding

(a) Number of dwellings statutorily overcrowded at the end of the year	34	38
Number of families dwelling therein	49	55
Number of persons dwelling therein	193	212
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	15	7
(c) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	13	5
(d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider to report.	The main housing problem is still the provision of accommodation for young married couples with limited families but without separate homes.	

